

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented): A method comprising:

selecting, at a first computer, at least one vision tool, said vision tool being remotely located from said first computer;

sending, via a communications network, image data, an indication of the vision tool that was selected, and at least one vision tool parameter corresponding to said vision tool, from the first computer to a remotely located second computer that includes the vision tool;

validating said image data, said vision tool, and said at least one vision tool parameter, at said remotely located second computer;

processing said image data at said remotely located second computer using the vision tool to produce a result; and

sending the result to a designated location.

2. (canceled)

3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein an indication of an image data location is sent, via said communications network, from said first computer to said remotely located second computer.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein client account information is sent along with the at least one vision tool parameter that is sent from said first computer via said communications network to said remotely located second computer.
5. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said communications network between said first computer and said remotely located second computer includes an Internet connection.
6. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said communications network between said first computer and said remotely located second computer includes a wide area network connection.
7. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said designated location to receive said analyzed result is said first computer.
8. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said designated location to receive said analyzed result is a computer other than said first computer.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented): The method of claim 4, wherein said at least one vision tool parameter is entered at said first computer.

11. (currently amended): The method of claim 2 1, further comprising:
acquiring said image data at said first computer.

12. (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising:
acquiring said image data at said remotely located second computer.

13. (original): The method of claim 11, wherein said acquiring includes retrieving said image data from an image acquirer using an acquisition command.

14. (original): The method of claim 12, wherein said acquiring includes retrieving said image
data from said image data location.

15. (original): The method of claim 11, wherein said image data is acquired from a location remote from said first computer.

16. (original): The method of claim 11, wherein said image data is acquired from a location on said first computer.

17. (original): The method of claim 10, wherein said at least one vision tool parameter is entered manually by a user at said first computer.

18. (original): The method of claim 10, wherein said at least one vision tool parameter is entered using an application program on said first computer.

19. (previously presented): A system comprising:

a first computer to send at least one vision tool parameter in accordance with a selected vision tool;

a remotely located second computer to analyze image data using said at least one vision tool parameter with said vision tool to produce an analyzed result to be sent by said second computer to a designated location, the remotely located second computer including:

a receiver to receive said at least one vision tool parameter from said first computer;

a validator to verify image data and at least one vision tool parameter;

an analyzer to analyze image data and said at least one vision tool parameter to obtain an analyzed result; and

a transmitter to send, via said communications link, said analyzed result from said remotely located second computer to a designated location; and

a communications link to facilitate the transmittal of data and the analyzed result, said communications link to be located between said first computer and said remotely located second computer.

20. (original): The system according to claim 19, wherein said first computer is configured to send said image data to said remotely located second computer to be used by said vision tool.

21. (original): The system according to claim 19, wherein said first computer is further configured to send an indication of an image data location to said remotely located second computer.

22. (original): The system according to claim 19, wherein said first computer comprises:

a collector configured to use a distributed processing protocol, wherein said collector retrieves said at least one vision operation tool parameter from one or a combination of local and remote computers;

a transmitter to send said at least one vision tool parameter, and an indication of at least one selected vision tool from said first computer to said remotely located second computer; and

a receiver to receive an analyzed result from said remotely located second computer via said communications link.

23. (original): The system according to claim 22, wherein said collector further retrieves image data from one or a combination of local and remote computers.

24. (original): The system according to claim 22, wherein said transmitter is configured to send said image data from said first computer to said remotely located second computer via the communications link.

25. (original): The system according to claim 22, wherein said transmitter further configured to send, via the communications link, an indication of an image data location from said first computer to said remotely located second computer.

26. (original): The system according to claim 22, wherein said collector comprises:

a client data procurer to acquire image data; and

a selector to select, at said first computer, at least one vision tool, said at least one vision tool configured to be remotely located from said first computer.

27. (original): The system according to claim 26, wherein said client data procurer retrieves said image data from an image acquirer.
28. (original): The system according to claim 19, wherein said communications link comprises an Internet connection.
29. (original): The system according to claim 19, wherein said communication link comprises a wide area network connection.
30. (original): The system according to claim 22, wherein said distributed processing protocol is a CORBA application.
31. (canceled)
32. (previously presented): The system according to claim 19, wherein said receiver is configured to receive image data from said first computer.
33. (previously presented): The system according to claim 19, wherein said receiver is further configured to receive an indication of an image data location from said first computer.

34. (previously presented): The system according to claim 19, wherein said remotely located second computer further comprises a validator to verify account information from said first computer.

35. (canceled):

36. (previously presented): The system according to claim 19, wherein said validator is located within said selected vision tool.

37. (previously presented): The system according to claim 19, wherein said designated location to receive said analyzed result is said first computer.

38. (previously presented): The system according to claim 19, wherein said designated location to receive said analyzed result is a computer other than said first computer.

39. (previously presented): An apparatus comprising:

a computer configured to communicate with a remotely located second computer via a communications link, said remotely located second computer including:

a receiving portion configured to receive image data, at least one vision tool parameter, and an indication of a selection of at least one vision tool from said remotely located second computer;

a validator to validate client identifier information received on said receiving portion;

an analyzing portion configured to analyze said image data and said at least one vision tool parameter using said at least one selected vision tool to obtain an analyzed result; and

a transmitting portion configured to send said analyzed result from said analyzing portion to a designated location via said communications link.

40. (canceled)

41. (original): The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said communications link between said computer and said remotely located second computer includes an Internet connection.

42. (original): The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said communications link between said computer and said remotely located second computer includes a wide area network connection.

43. (original): The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said designated location to receive said analyzed result is said remotely located second computer.

44. (original): apparatus of claim 39, wherein said designated location to receive said analyzed result is a third computer other than said remotely located second computer.

Claims 45 – 50 (canceled)

51. (previously presented): A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for analyzing machine vision image data, said program comprising:

 sending, via a communications link, image data, an indication of a choice of a vision tool, and at least one vision tool parameter that corresponds to said choice of a vision tool, from a first computer to a remotely located second computer that includes said choice of a vision tool;

 validating said image data and said at least one vision tool parameter;

analyzing said image data and said at least one vision tool parameter at said remotely located second computer using said choice of a vision tool to produce an analyzed result; and

sending said analyzed result from said remotely located second computer to a designated location via said communications link.

52. (original): The computer-readable medium according to claim 51, said program further comprising sending said image data, via said communications link, from said first computer to said remotely located second computer.

53. (original): The computer-readable medium according to claim 51, said program further comprising sending an indication of an image data location, via said communications link, from said first computer to said remotely located second computer.

54. (canceled)

55. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 51, further comprising entering at least one vision tool parameter at said first computer.

56. (original): The computer-readable medium according to claim 52, said program further comprising:

acquiring said image data at said first computer.

57. (original): The computer-readable medium according to claim 53, said program further comprising:

acquiring said image data at said remotely located second computer.

58. (original): The computer-readable medium according to claim 56, wherein said acquiring includes retrieving said image data from an image holder using an acquisition command.

59. (original): The computer-readable medium according to claim 57, wherein said acquiring includes retrieving said image data from said image data location.

60. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 51, said program further comprising acquiring said image data from a location remote from said first computer.

61. (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 51, wherein said image data is located on said first computer.

62. (original): The computer-readable medium according to claim 55, said program further comprising manually entering said at least one vision tool parameter by a user at said first computer.

63. (original): The computer-readable medium according to claim 56, wherein said program further comprises entering said at least one vision tool parameter using an application program on said first computer.

Claims 64 – 68 (canceled)